

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
October 26, 2015 - 6:30 PM

Cumulative Attendance 1/2015 through 12/2015					
	MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1.	Alena Alberani, Chair	II	P	8	2
2.	Jason Liechty, Vice Chair	IV	A	9	1
3.	Lawrence Clark	I	P	8	0
4.	Lance Cutrer	I	A	6	2
5.	Jeffrey Huber	M	A	6	3
6.	Jim Moyer	III	P	10	0
7.	Chad Scott	II	P	8	1
8.	Mate Thitisawat	C	P	7	3
9.	Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	8	2
10.	Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	9	1
11.	Vacant	M	--	--	--

**Staff Present**

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Adrienne Ehle, Environmental Analyst

Jimmy Koeth, Principal Environmental Strategist

Audrey Núñez Gough, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison

**Guests Present**

Yelka Mikolji, Flagler Village Civic Association, Our Central Park

Rob Larsen, President of the Flagler Village Civic Association

Sheila Franklin, Flagler Village Civic Association

Marilyn Mammano, Flagler Village Civic Association

Ron Centamore, Progresso Village

### **Call of Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alberani at 6:43 p.m. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

### **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

The September minutes were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes with proposed changes by Mr. Moyer and seconded by Mr. Thitisawat and passed on consensus.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

Ms. Ehle gave an overview on the following communications:

- Beach Wrack

Ms. Ehle reported that Mr. Hadwen presented the Beach Wrack Pilot Project to the following boards: 1) Beach Business Improvement District Advisory Committee (BID Committee) on October 13, 2015, 2) Beach Redevelopment Board (BRAB) on October 19, 2015 and 3) Central Beach Alliance on October 14, 2015. In addition, Ms. Ehle is scheduled to present to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board (PRBAB) on October 28, 2015. As a result of these presentations, BRAB and BID Committee have sent communications to the City Commission expressing their opposition to this project. The Central Beach Alliance has also stated similar concerns but they do not have a process to follow to formally submit communications. Some of the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) board members requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation utilized at these meetings and Ms. Ehle agreed to send it as part of the Information Exchange message. The Board discussed the objections to the project and possible future options for the project.

- Expanded Polystyrene

Ms. Ehle reported that the City Attorney is looking at this item into more detail as to how the ordinance is enforceable here. Mr. Hadwen will inform the board next month in regards to the research and findings encountered by the City Attorney. Chair Alberani clarified that this item was not for citywide practice, because the way it was written it was not done expecting a citywide ordinance, but for internal practices in the City.

- Food Forest and Alternative Fuels

Ms. Ehle mentioned that both communications are moving forward and will be presented at the next City Commission conference meeting on November 3, 2015 which starts at 1:30 p.m.

- Climate Reality Leadership Corps

This training was held in Miami on September 28-30, 2015 and was led by Al Gore and staff was able to attend as well as Chair Alberani and Vice Chair Liechty. It was an intensive training but staff came back with significant amount resources to use and implement in the City.

- Internal Green Purchasing Policy

Ms. Ehle stated that the Internal Green Purchasing Policy is in progress. The policy is currently being drafted by several departments in the City (Public Works, Sustainability Division and Finance Departments). Ms. Ehle mentioned that Mr. Hadwen can present and send the draft once it is almost ready for the board to review and provide comments.

- Introduction of New Board Liaison

Ms. Ehle introduced the new Sustainability Advisory Board liaison, Audrey Núñez Gough.

## **Presentations**

### **One-stop Shop {Scott}**

Mr. Scott presented the guests, Rob Larsen, President of the Flagler Village Civic Association (FVCA). Mr. Larsen introduced Sheila Franklin, Chair of Our Central Park Committee, Ms. Mikolji who is also on the Board of the FVCA, Ms. Mammano, who heads the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA) and Mr. Centamore from Progresso Village.

Mr. Larsen started his presentation describing the area where Flagler Village is located. Most of the neighborhood is zoned urban village, built for density but also needs open spaces. Mr. Larsen mentioned that there is a parcel, referred to as Central Park that has been designated as a park on the Downtown Master Plan. It is located in what will be the state's highest density between the FCC Railroad Tracks and the transportation hub for the All Aboard trains.

Mr. Larsen mentioned and showed a slide denoting that the property is not being maintained. He mentioned that the Master Plan adopted in 2003 states that there is a shortage of usable green spaces in downtown. The neighborhood did get Peter Feldman Park, which was part of the Master Plan as well, and there is no garbage or homeless problem at that park. The reason for not having this problem is due to the 800 new residents living around that area who walk and jog and walk their dogs on a daily basis.

Mr. Larsen stated that Hardy Park was a success story because it fulfills the residents' needs for open space. Hardy Park is the equivalent to the neighborhood's Central Park, because 15 years ago residents fought the City of Fort Lauderdale to keep Hardy Park. The same legal maneuvers are being utilized for Central Park and they are looking to get this item on the City Commission Agenda. Flagler Village needs this park in order for planning to become a reality.

Mr. Larsen showed the Downtown Development Authority's (DDA) project development pipeline, which will be extremely dense, denoting no open space in the Flagler Village neighborhood. In terms of transportation, railroad, pedestrian and bike there is a lot of initiatives going on, but All Aboard Florida is already building and purchasing sites and plots of lands. Transit initiatives around this park will continue to function or are being developed such as: buses, The Wave, The Sun Trolley, etc., as it is a transportation hub. The City has a park impact key calculator on its website; on average a new unit has to contribute up to \$2,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Larsen mentioned that in the last 10 years they have calculated an estimated amount of \$8 million, what is currently on the books is another \$8 million and in the next five to ten (5 to 10) years as well, just from the immediate area. Also, the City has already done some studies on what this park would look like.

Mr. Larsen mentioned that once you activate a piece of land better things happen, for example open fields and playgrounds come with several federal laws such as police patrolling. This park could have a café, an area to walk dogs, a community garden, and even a PATCH garden for educational purposes, among others. There are people interested in renovating the old firehouse and turning it into café or brewery, which would be an element to attract people to the park. Mr. Larsen mentioned that they are fighting for an open space where citizens can go and enjoy in a world class city. Anyone's criteria for sustainable air needs parks and open spaces.

Mr. Larsen presented and circulated the petition to keep this park. He also presented a draft of the ordinance proposed to the City Commission. It is a citizen's initiative and he mentioned that the City Charter calls for 1,000 people to join the committee and once that threshold is reached initiatives can be placed on the City Commission agenda for discussion and voting. Mr. Larsen said that they are on track to be on the agenda for a City Commission meeting in December 2015. On behalf of Our Central Park, Mr. Larsen requested the Sustainability Advisory Board to support this effort and to keep people accountable according to the adopted Master Plan.

Ms. Franklin stated that the park is 3.3 acres, bigger than Peter Feldman Park, which allows for a lot of things to be done.

Mr. Scott noted that the purpose of this initiative is to have the site designated as a park in the zoning. Afterwards, the design and development of the park will take place in the upcoming years. The slides denote the parcel's potential but it needs the designation as "P" for park first.

Ms. Whitfield asked if that site is currently indicated as a park in the Master Plan, but Mr. Larsen clarified that the Master Plan recommends that the site be designated as a park.

Ms. Whitfield then stated that because that parcel is currently not designated as park, its ultimate use is available.

Mr. Scott mentioned that in the neighborhood there are 8 pocket parks outside of Peter Feldman and "Our Central Park", which were recommended on the Master Plan 2007 but besides Peter Feldman Park there is no other park. Mr. Scott mentioned that the City is talking about selling this park for \$50 million to pay for beach nourishment and other expenses. That amount will not be able to buy that land back. This park is an opportunity for residents and future generations. Mr. Scott mentioned that the City should not be budgeting to buy land, it should already be planned. The plans and future of this park is causing contention between the City Manager and the district City Commissioner.

Chair Alberani wants to revisit to the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) because there is a section that talks about "growing green spaces," so what the Board decides to recommend should be connected to the SAP that has already been approved, as well as the other Plans approved by the City Commission.

Ms. Whitfield stated that "Our Central Park" is a good brand for this initiative and she inquired about the timeframe to build an active park in case the parcel gets designated into a park.

Mr. Scott clarified that it needs to follow the standard City's procedures for a park design, but they will seek City as well as Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funding as this park is in the CRA district. The process will include: design, bids and Request for Proposals (RFP), etc. The first step is to get it designated as a park but the goal is to have a world class park. Mr. Scott added that they could even have a national design competition.

Ms. Whitfield asked if there have been discussions with All Aboard Florida who are building the FCC corridor? Mr. Larsen mentioned that they have an interest in purchasing the land and Ms. Whitfield asked if it was for development. Mr. Larsen agreed. Ms. Whitfield asked that if the site gets designated as a park, will they support the project. Mr. Larsen responded that he thinks that the private funding will come from elsewhere.

Ms. Whitfield expressed that due to the timing and the fact that All Aboard Florida is already building in downtown, there should be discussions about coordinating between the transit and the park parties to make it an active use.

Chair Alberani stated that as this park is in downtown it will provide the opportunity for public events such as: concerts, cultural events, etc.

Mr. Larsen mentioned that the park already has parking, approximately 40 spaces.

Mr. Scott mentioned that the ideas that could be generated by the Board are only the beginning and he is not worried how the park will become. He is worried right now, that the site gets sold before they have an opportunity to see the designation as a park. This initiative will go to the City Commission for a vote and in the case they vote "No," this item can be put on the ballot for the people to vote. Mr. Scott mentioned that there are few people who benefit from this. He also stated that he wishes the SAB to make a motion in support of this initiative. This support will denote that the boards and the residents are also backing the designation of this park, as Flagler Village is also presenting to other City boards. Mr. Scott showed the draft motion that the SAB can utilize and vote on.

Mr. Clark asked if any of the adjacent properties have submitted any projects for the approval from Development Review Committee (DRC). Mr. Larsen responded that yes the adjacent properties are very active and a lot of projects are going for approval right now.

Mr. Scott mentioned that the properties around the park are residential and will provide a gateway to the River, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, museums, etc. This park will also support in creating a more walkable City.

Chair Alberani inquired about the group's timeline. Mr. Larsen responded that they are seeking signatures and are hoping to be on the City Commission agenda for December 2015.

Mr. Clark suggested that they also go to Smart Growth Partnership, a nonprofit organization which supports smart growth principles.

Mr. Larsen circulated the petition for those who live in Fort Lauderdale and are registered to vote and want to sign the petition. Mr. Larsen also circulated the sample of ordinance that they have drafted.

Mr. Vadiveloo inquired that if the land can be sold and Ms. Franklin responded that they could; however the information has disseminated that there is a group seeking to designate this site as a park, which could deter the City from selling the land.

Mr. Scott presented the proposed communication to the City Commission for the SAB to review. The SAB discussed and suggested modifications. Chair Alberani suggested adding the effect this park could have in health wellness.

Mr. Scott will finalize the draft before next month's meeting to further discuss and vote on it.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Clark mentioned that some items on the Potential Items/Presentations for Future Meetings" list were placed by some of the board members that are not present, so he recommended deferring that item.

Mr. Moyer stated that he would like to do a presentation to the board on the Clothing Recycling Initiative. Chair Alberani inquired if Mr. Moyer would like to present at the board's next meeting and Mr. Moyer as well as the rest of the board members agreed.

Mr. Scott asked if the application for the We Are Wild: Certified Community Wildlife Habitat has been finalized by the City and Ms. Ehle clarified that the Parks and Recreation Department will move forward with this closer to January 2016. Mr. Clark as well as the other board members decided to leave the item on the list for future presentations.

Chair Alberani suggested trying to schedule a presentation from someone involved in the application and Mr. Scott recommended waiting until there is notification that the application has been finalized.

Mr. Clark recommended moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) to a more active category. Chair Alberani proposed that Mr. Clark do a presentation on this item during the December 2015 meeting.

### **New Business**

Ms. Ehle presented the email that Mr. Moyer sent her on October 26, 2016 regarding a prioritization item for the beaches.

Mr. Moyer mentioned that according to the CFLCA, in the City's proposed items for 2016 State Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests, smoke-free zones on Fort Lauderdale beaches is number seventeen (17), the last item on the list. The Council is discouraged as they recently supported a voluntary pilot program of smoke free playgrounds including one at the beach.

Mr. Clark stated that he is concerned that this item could get the same resistance as the Beach Wrack Pilot Program due to Fort Lauderdale being a tourist destination.

Mr. Moyer mentioned that if the SAB and the CFLCA release the same communication it could make this initiative stronger. This support could lead to future collaborations between two organizations, such as the Beach Wrack Pilot Program.

Mr. Clark suggested that the first step could be to get voluntary no smoking signage on the beaches. He mentioned that the City of Pompano Beach has signs that read: "Thank you for not smoking, keep our beaches clean."

Chair Alberani stated that smoking not only involves the clean air problem but also pollutes the beach. She also mentioned that many Cities do not want to deal with smoking on parks and beaches due to preemption. Chair Alberani suggested that if they are able to designate the voluntary program within a beach area as a smoke-free zone, it could be similar to what they did with the TOUCH program in parks where they installed signs that said "Thank you for not smoking." Chair Alberani said that they have worked in positive reinforcement jointly with the American Lung Association who funded signs that say "Thank you for not smoking, young lungs at play." Chair Alberani stated that in the future there could be designated smoking areas with ashtrays so people do not litter the beaches.

Chair Alberani indicated that this should be made in a positive and voluntary manner.

Mr. Moyer mentioned that he believes that the CFLCA will say that number seventeen (17) is not high enough. He recommended that the Board should also send a communication supporting the CFLCA.

Mr. Scott read the list of priorities.

Chair Alberani inquired about the next steps and Mr. Moyer suggested that they discuss it.

Mr. Clark inquired why the City is going to the State for this issue and Mr. Scott responded that it is due to funding. However, Mr. Clark stated that funding for signage and local reinforcement should not require the State's approval.

Chair Alberani mentioned that Tobacco Free Florida is doing the beach sweeps the second Saturday of every month, so maybe there is a way to work with them to install signs on the beach.



Mr. Clark mentioned that the local lung associations have funding for these types of initiatives.

Mr. Moyer stated that he brought this topic to the board to put on the agenda for further discussion and then they could make a recommendation to the City Commission to make it a higher priority on the list.

Mr. Scott suggested that they could draft a communication to the City Commission to create and install signs on the beach saying "Thank you for not smoking."

Ms. Ehle mentioned that there is Commission Agenda Memo (CAM) associated with this document as it went to the City Commission and it would be helpful for the board to review the entire item and exhibits. Ms. Ehle agreed to send the CAM 15-1224 and Exhibits as part of the Information Exchange on Friday October 30, 2015.

Mr. Scott recommended putting this item on the list for future discussion as smoke free beaches.

Chair Alberani specified that the board cannot call for a ban on anything, it needs to state voluntary. She indicated that this item can be linked with the movement of Tobacco Free Florida as they are tracking how much cigarette butts and trash they collect on the beach.

Mr. Vadiveloo agreed that this issue is important. He also indicated that the communication could suggest that the City install voluntary no smoking signage on the beach.

Chair Alberani mentioned that it is the board's decision to place it on the discussion list or for it to be on the agenda the following month. Mr. Clark stated that he would like for this item to be on the agenda for November 2015.

### **Proposed Communication**

The Board discussed a Draft Communication to City Commission on Drilling in the Everglades.

*The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) provides the following Communication to the City Commission:*

*"The Florida Everglades has a singular, delicate ecosystem, unique to the planet. A proposed application to drill for oil in the Everglades threatens to disturb that habitat with potential negative impacts to the Biscayne Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for all of Broward, Miami-Dade, and the southern end of Palm Beach County. As of September 16, 2015, at least twenty municipalities in Broward County passed*

*resolutions opposing Kanter Realty's application to drill for oil in the Everglades. The SAB exhorts the Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners to show support for protecting the integrity of the Everglades, and join the increasing number of Broward municipalities that oppose this and any similar contemplated endeavor in the future."*

A motion made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Thitisawat to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Comments**

Mr. Scott updated on the Mockingbird Trail which was installed on October 17, 2015. The next step is Phase II, which the organizers are still deciding whether to incorporate additional sculptures or not.

Mr. Vadiveloo will be attending the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit in December 2015.

Chair Alberani will be attending the National Walking Summit in Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Events:

- 2015 Stihl Tour des Trees Closing Ceremony on October 31, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at the Esplanade Park.
- Open Streets on November 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Items for Next Meeting**

The Board agreed to the following item for its November agenda:

1. Clothing Recycling Initiative presented by Mr. Moyer
2. Smoke-free beach voluntary signage
3. Communication on Our Central Park Initiative

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.